

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested. Claims 1-36 remain in the application. Claims 37-42 have been withdrawn from consideration in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention of the present application. Claims 25 and 28 have been amended to overcome various objections and put forth by the Examiner as described below. It is respectfully submitted no new matter has been added by these claim amendments.

Claims 25 and 28 were objected for minor informalities or grammar errors as stated on page 2 of the Office Action dated March 27, 2008.

Claims 25 and 28 have been amended and it is respectfully submitted the claims amendments overcome the objections.

Claims 1-12 and 34-36 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Lord, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0002849 (hereafter Lord) as set forth on pages 3-6 of the Office Action dated March 27, 2008. Claims 13-18 and 29-30 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lord in View of Bruck et al., US Patent 7,143,428 (hereinafter Bruck). Claims 28 and 32 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lord in view of Pantoja, US Patent Application Publication 2003/0115598 (hereinafter Pantoja). Claim 33 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lord in view of Fasciano et al., US Patent 5,467,288 (hereinafter Fasciano). Claims 19-24 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lord and Bruck in view of Pantoja. Claim 31 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lord and Bruck in view of Zenith, US Patent 6,519,771

(hereinafter Zenith). Claims 25-27 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lord, Bruck and Pantoja in view of Du Val et al., US Patent Application Publication 2002/0016820 (hereinafter Du Val).

In regards to claim 1, the Examiner asserted "...Lord teaches the invention as claimed comprising: at least two media storage mediums, each of said storage mediums at least containing a substantially identical copy of a particular media selection ([0007]) (memories of PVRs containing common program); at least two media players structured to selectively deliver said media selection to a user from a corresponding one of said storage mediums ([0007]) (PVRs delivers the media to users from the memories); each of said media players including a control assembly structured to selectively control and regulate delivery of said media selection to the user ([0019]); at least one of said media players being selectively designatable as a slave unit ([0031]); a master control assembly operatively associated with said media players ([0022]); a connectivity assembly structured to establish a communicative link at least between said slave unit and said master control assembly ([0020]; 18, fig. 2); said master control assembly structured to receive synchronization data of said media selection from each of said media players ([0031]); and said master control assembly structured to simultaneously and uniformly control said delivery of said media selection by said media players based on said received synchronization data ([0031])".

Amended claim 1 is directed to an interactive, multi-user media delivery system including, inter alia, "a) at least two portable media storage mediums, each of said portable storage mediums at least containing a substantially identical copy of a particular media selection; b) at least two media players structured to selectively deliver said media

selection to a user from a corresponding one of said portable storage mediums; c) each of said media players including a control assembly structured to selectively control and regulate delivery of said media selection to the user; d) at least one of said media players being selectively designatable as a slave unit; e) a master control assembly operatively associated with said media players; f) a connectivity assembly structured to establish a communicative link at least between said slave unit and said master control assembly; g) said master control assembly structured to receive synchronization data of said media selection from each of said media players; and h) said master control assembly structured to simultaneously and uniformly control said delivery of said media selection by said media players based on said received synchronization data". The system of amended claim 1 enables simultaneous viewing and control of "a substantially identical copy of a particular media selection" from a *portable storage medium* to users to create a common media experience among the users. As stated in the instant application at page 2, lines 1-6, "due to convenience, file size and/or copyright issues, a still very popular form for the delivery of media to a user is through the use of portable storage mediums that can be easily transported, owned by an individual, shared, rented, and/or mass produced for distribution and/or sale to a large number of users". By utilizing portable storage mediums, the system of claim 1 can be utilized with the very large number of portable storage mediums, e.g., DVDs, CD, etc., already sold and/or distributed without having to reconfigured or modify the portable storage mediums (see instant application at page, line 13-21). Furthermore, a master control assembly of the system receives synchronization data of the media selection from each of the media players to simultaneously and uniformly control the delivery of the media selection by the media players based on the received

synchronization data so each user experiences the same media selection at the same time.

Lord is directed to a method, apparatus and system for synchronizing the video output of personal video recorders in two or more locations. A broadcast program is received and recorded on a personal video recorder on a first personal video recorder. A second personal video recorder having a common program residing in its memory is selected. A signal is then transmitted to or from the first personal video recorder to simultaneously initiate a start sequence in each of the first and second personal video recorders.

Lord does not disclose “at least two portable media storage mediums, each of said portable storage mediums at least containing a substantially identical copy of a particular media selection” and “at least two media players structured to selectively deliver said media selection to a user from a corresponding one of said portable storage mediums”. Lord discloses a broadcast of a television program being recorded on a personal video recorder (PVR). In describing the method of the system of Lord in conjunction with FIG. 13, Lord states “Prior to starting the synchronization process, each of the users must receive and record a program, as shown in blocks 70 and 72. Alternatively, the users may select a live broadcast” (emphasis added) (see paragraph 0045 of Lord). In all other section of Lord, Lord required a broadcast to be received by the PVR and does not disclose the synchronization of portable storage mediums which may have been previously acquired by the user, e.g., a DVD distributed in commerce ten years ago.

Furthermore, Lord does not disclose “said master control assembly structured to receive synchronization data of said media selection from each of said media

players; and said master control assembly structured *to simultaneously and uniformly control said delivery* of said media selection by said media players *based on said received synchronization data*" (emphasis added) as recited in amended claim 1. In paragraphs [0031] and [0046] of Lord, Lord discloses that to synchronize the two PVRs the personal video recorder that initiated the viewing will send out a status message after every command received at the PVR or at a predetermined rate if no commands have occurred. Therefore, the initiating PVR of Lord will send out status message regardless of the state of the other PVRs, e.g., a slave unit. In contrast, the system of claim 1 simultaneously and uniformly controls delivery of the media selection from the portable storage medium based on received synchronization data received from each of said media players. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the system of amended claim 1 is patentably distinct over Lord and is in condition for allowance.

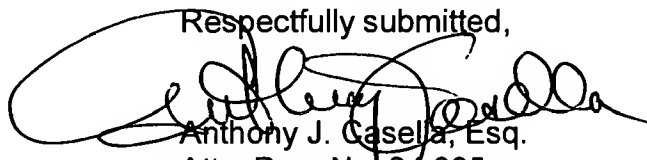
Furthermore, the other references cited by the Examiner do not cure the deficiencies of Lord. For example, Bruck (US Patent 7,143,428) is directed to a system for viewing a broadcast video signal such as a television program including text chat capability; Pantoja (US 2003/0115598) is directed to a system and method for interactively producing a web-based multimedia presentation with no teaching or suggestion of simultaneous delivery nor received synchronization data from media players; and Fasciano et al. (US Patent 5,467,288) is directed to a single digital audio workstation providing digital storage and display of video information. Similar to Lord and Bruck et al., Zenith discloses a system for displaying broadcast video, e.g., a broadcast television video (see FIG. 1 of Zenith). Lastly, Du Val et al. is directed to a system and method for distributing in real-time interactive data extracted from a video signal to a plurality of client computers via

a computer network, a plurality of data source computers extract the interactive data from the video signals, forward them to a distribution server which buffers the interactive data and broadcasts the interactive data to a Web server cluster and a program executing on each client computer periodically sends updated requests to the web server cluster to retrieve new interactive data for display to the user. The client computers of Du Val et al. poll the web server to get updates and not receive simultaneous deliver of a media selection from a master control assembly based on synchronization data from each of media players, e.g., client computers.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted amended claim 1 is patentably distinct and not rendered obvious by Lord, Bruck et al., Pantoja, Fasciano et al., Zenith and Du Val et al. alone or in any combination. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2-36, depending directly or indirectly from amended claim 1, are patentable for at least the reasons stated above in regard to amended claim 1.

In view of the preceding amendment and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter, and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below if the Examiner believes a telephone or personal interview would facilitate the prosecution of this application.

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